



THE RESIDENT NEWSLETTER

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HUD Makes \$35 Million Available to Create New Educational, Job Training Facilities for Residents

Housing authorities across the country now have one more way to help residents find paths to new careers. The new Capital Fund Education and Training Community Facilities Program (CFCF) allows public housing agencies (PHAs) to apply for grants that will support the development of facilities for education and job training. The funds could go toward early childhood education, adult education or job training programs for public housing residents. The program shows HUD's understanding of the important link between stable, healthy affordable housing and educational and employment opportunities. "Education offers a path to a better life," said HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan. "This new program will provide public housing authorities the necessary resources to give their residents educational and enrichment opportunities that open doors to boundless opportunities."

Housing authorities have until January 14, 2011, to apply for CFCF funding to construct new facilities, rehabilitate existing structures or purchase facilities that will provide early childhood and adult education, and/or job training programs for public housing residents. The funding can also be used to revitalize an existing community center that will offer comprehensive services to help public housing residents achieve in educational and economic areas. These improvements may lead to long-term economic self-sufficiency. While use of the facility is mainly for public housing residents, families in the community may use and benefit from the new centers and their resources.

CFCF shows HUD's commitment to include educational opportunities along with housing programs. Both the new Choice Neighborhoods (CN) and HOPE VI Revitalization Programs also require making early childhood educational opportunities a priority.

Read the Notice for CFCF: <http://bit.ly/c2TvBX>

Learn about Choice Neighborhoods: <http://bit.ly/c3nCNB>

Learn about HOPE VI: <http://bit.ly/akC5ks>

DEADLINES

- » The Resident Opportunity and Self-Sufficiency – Service Coordinators applications are due February 21, 2011.

To read the Notice of Funding Availability: <http://bit.ly/cjQoWf>

Remember: Active Resident Associations can apply, BUT all applicants must register first on www.grants.gov.

Step-Up Puts Residents to Work In Minnesota



Step-Up apprentice at HOPE VI site (Photo: HRA)

With the unemployment rate in America just below 10 percent, everyone, including public housing residents, is concerned with getting or keeping a job. PHAs can help residents help themselves with job training initiatives. One such job training program called Step-Up is helping residents enter the construction field in Duluth, Minnesota.

The Step-Up Program is a national on-the-job training program created by HUD, the Department of Labor, and National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials. Step-Up is non-craft specific, meaning it does not teach one specific construction trade. The program provides employment and training in construction work for Section 3 qualified individuals who would otherwise have difficulty meeting requirements for regular craft-specific apprentice opportunities in the construction industry. Apprenticeship programs may require a driver's license, high school diploma or GED, construction experience, or the ability to buy



Building Trades Council President with Step-Up worker and HRA Director (Photo: HRA)



Award Presentation with Step-Up apprentices, Building Trades Council, Contractor, and HRA representatives (Photo: HRA)

and coordination of and payment for the required academic and physical testing.

Community Action-Duluth arranges for, and covers the cost of, an OSHA-10 Safety Training. The non-profit also provides job coaching and money for work clothes, tools, and some services, such as transportation and day care. To date, the program has given 29 participants exposure to the construction industry. Four of these participants have moved on to gain additional skills through apprenticeships with the Carpenters' Union. There are currently two Step-Up apprentices working at the HRA's HOPE VI revitalization site; both are Duluth HRA public housing residents.

The program has been successful in providing public housing residents and other Section 3 qualified individuals with life-changing career opportunities.

construction clothing and tools. The Section 3 program requires that agencies that receive certain HUD funds, to the greatest extent possible, provide job training, employment, and contract opportunities for low- or very-low income residents in connection with projects and activities in their neighborhoods.

The Duluth Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) established the Step-Up program in 2005. It was created in partnership with the Duluth Building and Construction Trades Council. Most of the construction opportunities have been provided by the general contractor and its subcontractors on the HRA's HOPE VI construction sites.

The HRA has partnered with Community Action-Duluth, a non-profit organization, which handles participant recruitment,

TIPS

Start and Grow Your Small Business with SCORE

Many people dream of opening their own business. Here is one resource for people who want to learn the ins and outs of starting or running their own businesses.

SCORE "Counselors to America's Small Business" is a nonprofit association that helps people start, grow and succeed at running small businesses. SCORE offers free and confidential advice, on-site and online workshops, free e-newsletters, and other business tools.

If you have specific questions, you can get help from SCORE's mentors or counselors. SCORE has helped more than 8.5 million entrepreneurs with a network of 13,000 mentors. Both working and retired executives and business owners donate time and expertise as business counselors. You can ask for business advice with an online mentor and get an answer in 48 hours. You can also make an appointment at one of their 350 locations nationwide to work with a mentor.

At their Web site, you can read success stories, take business quizzes, read blogs, download templates on finance topics, and view free workshops. Some of the workshops include:

- Can You Afford to Start a Business?
- Targeting your Market
- Pricing Products and Services
- Running a Profitable Company
- Developing a Business Plan

Some of the on-line workshops are available in Spanish.

SCORE is a resource partner with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

To find out more: <http://www.score.org/index.html>

To find a SCORE office near you, go to: <http://www.score.org/findscore/index.html> or call 1-800-634-0245.

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HELP CORNER

For more assistance with a small business, the SBA also offers on-line classes, links to other resource partners, loan programs and lenders, and tools. At the small business planner page, entrepreneurs-to-be can read through or download pages of a comprehensive start-up kit. There's also info available to keep small businesses healthy including filing your taxes, improving decision-making skills, and managing employees. www.sba.gov